

21-03

EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING THE
MONTANA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL

WHEREAS, geographic information plays a vital role in decision making processes for local, state and federal government entities as well as private businesses and citizens; and

WHEREAS, geographic information is expensive to collect, maintain and analyze; and

WHEREAS, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are computer systems for storing, assembling, manipulating and displaying geographically referenced material; and

WHEREAS, GIS serve as valuable mediums for scientific investigation, resource management and development planning; and

WHEREAS, GIS are currently being used and developed across Montana by local, state and federal agencies, as well as the business community, to facilitate effective decision making; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to coordinate these efforts to provide a cost effective, efficient means of assembling and distributing geospatial data among interested agencies and parties; and

WHEREAS, a broad based effort, commitment, policy direction and framework is needed for Montana to develop and manage its geographic information resources; and

WHEREAS, GIS is of long-term importance to all of the state; and

1 WHEREAS, the state recognizes the importance of coordinating technology,
2 including the concept of data sharing; and

3 WHEREAS, the state adopted and endorses an aggressive policy regarding the
4 use of technology to provide access to services and current and retrospective
5 information with appropriate regard for budgetary considerations; and

6 WHEREAS, the Montana Geographic Information Council was created in 1997 to
7 promote effective and efficient use of resources for matters related to geographic
8 information.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUDY MARTZ, Governor of the State of Montana,
10 pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws and Constitution of the State of
11 Montana, do hereby continue the authority of Montana Geographic Information Council.

12 I. PURPOSE and DUTIES

13 The purpose of the Montana Geographic Information Council is to provide policy
14 level direction and promote efficient and effective use of resources for matters related to
15 geographic information. To that end it shall:

- 16 A. promote a spirit of cooperation among state, federal and local agencies,
17 and the private sector in addressing geographic data and information needs and
18 services in Montana; and
- 19 B. review and establish priorities for statewide geographic information needs
20 and assist in the development of implementation plans; and
- 21 C. facilitate cost sharing and collaborative arrangements to develop and
22 maintain high-priority GIS data bases and applications programs; and
- 23 D. promote coordination of programs, policies, technologies and resources to
24 maximize opportunities and minimize duplication of effort, and to facilitate the
25 documentation, distribution and exchange of geographic information; and
- 26 E. ensure the development of consistent policies, standards and guidelines
27 for geographic information; and

1 F. complement and enhance ongoing coordination efforts of the Montana
2 GIS Interagency Technical Working Group, the Montana Local Government GIS
3 Coalition, the Montana GIS Users Group, and others; and

4 G. serve as the primary point of contact for national, regional, and other
5 states' GIS coordinating groups for the purpose of channeling issues and
6 projects to the appropriate individuals, organizations, or agencies; and

7 H. provide recommendations to the Governor and the legislature, when
8 appropriate, concerning issues related to geographic information in Montana.

9 II. COMPOSITION

10 The Council shall consist of 22 members, appointed by the Governor, as follows:

11 A. six state agency heads (or designees) to represent all agencies within
12 state government. These members shall include:

13 1. the Director of the Department of Administration (or designee) who
14 shall serve as chair or appoint a chair from the Council membership; and

15 2. the State Librarian (or designee); and

16 3. the Directors of four other state departments (or designees); and

17 B. three representatives from county and municipal government, at least one
18 of whom is a local government representative active in land information systems;
19 and

20 C. two representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and

21 D. two representative from the U.S. Department of the Interior; and

22 E. two representatives chosen from public utilities or private businesses
23 active in land information systems; and

24 F. one Tribal representative; and

25 G. one representative of the University System; and

26 H. the chair of the Montana GIS Interagency Technical Working Group (or
27 designee); and
28

1 I. the chair of the Montana Local Government GIS Coalition (or designee);
2 and

3 J. the President of the Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors
4 (or designee); and

5 K. two state legislators, one from the Senate and one from the House of
6 Representatives, on Democrat and one Republican.

7 The Department of Administration/Information Services Division will provide
8 administrative support for the Council. The Montana GIS Interagency Technical Working
9 Group and the Montana Local Government GIS Coalition will provide technical support
10 for the Council. The Council may seek additional technical support from the Montana
11 GIS Users Group and other public or private sector entities.

12 The names and addresses of members are submitted by separate letter to the
13 Secretary of State and the Department of Administration.

14 III. DURATION

15 This Council shall exist for a period of two years from the effective date of this
16 Order unless otherwise ordered by subsequent Executive Order. This order is effective
17 immediately.

18 GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL
19 of the State of Montana, this ____ day of
20 __, 2003.

21 JUDY MARTZ, Governor _____

22 ATTEST:

23 BOB BROWN, Secretary of State
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